

New Transportation Policy Committee to Take on Major Tasks

The Maricopa Association of Governments will be linking up with state legislators, business leaders, and representatives from transit and freight interests to create the plan that will guide transportation investments in the region for the next 20 to 40 years. The plan will be a crucial component in helping voters decide whether to support the extension of a half-cent sales tax in 2004.

Citing a need to enhance MAG's participatory process, the MAG Regional Council approved the creation of the new Transportation Policy Committee in May. Appointments to the committee were adopted by the Council in June. (See inset page 3.)

The 25-member committee replaces the seven-member Transportation Subcommittee. It will include 13 cities and towns, five business representatives (including one representing transit), the ranking Maricopa members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees, a freight representative, and one representative each from Maricopa County, the Native American Indian community, the State Transportation Board, and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee.



"The Regional Council recognized that we needed more broad-based representation when it came to defining transportation policy for the region," said MAG Regional Council Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr. "Our transportation system moves the people and goods critical to our economic viability. It makes good sense to have input from business leaders, freight interests, and other levels of government," she said. "Although we have always reached out to these stakeholders in other ways, this is the first time they will be sitting at the table, directly involved in defining direction and developing policy."

One of the primary tasks of the committee will be the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan, which will serve as the "transportation blueprint" for the region in both the near and long term. The plan will help identify projects to be funded through the extension of the half-cent sales tax for transportation. The current half-cent sales tax is set to expire in 2005, and is the primary funding source for new freeway construction in the region.

Feldman-Kerr says information being collected through MAG's current transportation studies will be crucial in

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Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr,
Queen Creek

From the Chair

It is with a strong sense of pride and optimism that I begin my tenure as MAG Regional Council Chair. Pride, because of all that this organization has accomplished in its 35-year history. Optimism, because the same commitment to regionalism that has carried us through past challenges can be brought to bear on the challenges still ahead.


Some great things have been accomplished by local elected officials working through MAG. For example, many people are unaware that MAG was responsible for bringing 9-1-1 service to the Valley, that MAG is involved in developing a coordinated response to Domestic Violence, or that MAG develops an annual plan to address homelessness. Under MAG's leadership, the region has marked five years without any violations of the standards for either carbon monoxide or ozone. These officials have also shaped the Valley's transportation system.

In 1985, MAG helped secure the passage of Proposition 300, which increased the sales tax by one-half cent to pay for the development of a Regional Freeway System. Today, we are driving on that success... with 91 miles of freeway constructed and a total of 144 miles to be completed within five years.

In 1996, local elected officials pulling together were able to revise the Freeway Program to add back segments that had been removed from the map, accelerate construction on the Agua Fria and Pima freeways, and fund the Red Mountain and San Tan segments.

In 1998, MAG spearheaded an effort for the region to receive its fair share of federal transportation dollars, leading MAG to initiate a plan to accelerate construction of the regional freeway system. To accomplish this acceleration, the state legislature – backed by the governor and business community – stepped up with additional financing mechanisms. Through those joint efforts, the system will be delivered by 2007, seven years earlier than planned and at about the same time voters were promised in 1985.

The list goes on. We know what can be accomplished when we work cooperatively. Now we have a new opportunity to demonstrate what we can achieve, as we move forward to support the extension of the half-cent sales tax we attained in 1985.

We did it then – together. We can do it now – together. I look forward to the opportunity of working with you as chair during this important phase in transportation history. 

REGIONAL council members

- ◆ **Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr**
Queen Creek, *Chair*
- ◆ **Mayor Joan Shafer**
Surprise, *Vice-Chair*
- ◆ **Mayor Keno Hawker**
Mesa, *Treasurer*
- Mayor Douglas Coleman**
Apache Junction
- Mayor Ron Drake**
Avondale
- Mayor Dusty Hull**
Buckeye
- Mayor Edward C. Morgan**
Carefree
- Vice Mayor Ralph Mozilo**
Cave Creek
- Mayor Boyd Dunn**
Chandler
- ◆ **Mayor Jose "Roy" Delgado**
El Mirage
- Mayor Jon Beydler**
Fountain Hills
- Mayor Chuck Turner**
Gila Bend
- Governor Donald Antone**
Gila River Indian Community
- Mayor Steve Berman**
Gilbert
- Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs**
Glendale
- ◆ **Mayor William Arnold**
Goodyear
- Mayor Margarita Cota**
Guadalupe
- Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas**
Litchfield Park
- Supervisor Don Stapley**
Maricopa County
- Mayor Edward F. Lowry**
Paradise Valley
- Mayor John Keegan**
Peoria
- ◆ **Mayor Skip Rimsza**
Phoenix
- President Ivan Makil**
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- ◆ **Mayor Mary Manross**
Scottsdale
- Mayor Neil G. Giuliano**
Tempe
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez**
Tolleson
- Mayor Lon McDermott**
Wickenburg
- Mayor Daphne Green**
Youngtown
- Dallas Gant and Joe Lane**
Arizona Department of Transportation
- F. Rockne Arnett**
Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
- ◆ **Executive Committee Members**



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments. It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

Wendy Feldman-Kerr
Mayor of Queen Creek
Regional Council Chair

Dennis Smith
Interim Executive Director

Kelly Taft
Editor

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Graphic Design



New MAG Chair Shares Priorities

You might say that Queen Creek Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr is comfortable taking the reins – whether it's with her hunter/jumper show horses or in her new role as chair of the MAG Regional Council.

Feldman-Kerr is no stranger to leadership positions, having served on the Town Council since 1994 and as mayor since 2000. She also serves as chair of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority Board, overseeing the development of the former Air Force Base into a public airport and industrial center. As mayor, she has focused on increasing citizen involvement and participation, and on finding regional partnerships to build the San Tan Mountain Regional Park.

Having acquired her Master's degree from Arizona State University in Communications, perhaps it's no surprise that her main focus at MAG will be relationship building.

"I'd say the number one goal that I have is to build cohesiveness and a sense of working toward a common goal without feeling like it's a win/lose situation," she says.


Feldman-Kerr says another top priority during her tenure as chair will be to "present the rationale" for the continuation of the half-cent sales tax to fund transportation in the region. She believes that the expanded Executive Committee and newly-created Transportation Policy

Committee will serve important roles in identifying projects to be funded through the extension.

Feldman-Kerr says she is confident that she is up to the task of spearheading the organization during a critical point in transportation history.

"I think that the advantage that I have as a mayor of a smaller community is that we don't have as much of an appearance of having something to win or lose, and I can focus on my people skills," she says. "I think for me it's the interpersonal relationships, and the relationships among the cities and towns as a whole that's the most important part, because I think if we've got that, we've got the other (issues) licked."

Feldman-Kerr says she was honored by her selection as chair. "I was very flattered that the members of the organization felt that I was capable of doing the job," she said. "I look forward to working with a very dynamic Executive Committee and getting to know all of the mayors better."

When not handling the business of the public, Feldman-Kerr owns and operates her own insurance and financial services firm in Tempe. The Feldman Agency specializes in business and estate planning. She lives with her husband Eric and daughter Sydney on four acres of a pecan grove in Queen Creek. 

Transportation Policy Committee continued from page 1

determining projects that would be funded through the sales tax extension.

"Clearly, the Transportation Policy Committee will utilize the wealth of information collected through the MAG studies to determine which investments are critical to maintaining our levels of mobility," she said.

The Transportation Policy Committee will meet for the first time in a retreat September 21. 

Below is a list of the new committee members and agencies they represent.

- ▲ **Senator Linda Aguirre**, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
- ▲ **Benito Almanza**, President, Bank of America
- ▲ **Rockne Arnett**, Chair, Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
- ▲ **William Arnold**, Mayor, City of Goodyear
- ▲ **Steve Berman**, Mayor, Town of Gilbert
- ▲ **David Berry**, Vice President, Swift Transportation
- ▲ **Peggy Bilsten**, Councilmember, City of Phoenix
- ▲ **Representative Dean Cooley**, Chair, House Transportation Committee
- ▲ **Pat Dennis**, Councilmember, City of Peoria
- ▲ **Ron Drake**, Mayor, City of Avondale
- ▲ **Boyd Dunn**, Mayor, City of Chandler
- ▲ **Rusty Gant**, District 1 Representative, State Transportation Board
- ▲ **Neil Giuliano**, Mayor, City of Tempe
- ▲ **Keno Hawker**, Mayor, City of Mesa
- ▲ **Eneas Kane**, Vice President and General Counsel, DMB Associates, Inc.
- ▲ **Mary Manross**, Mayor, City of Scottsdale
- ▲ **Lon McDermott**, Mayor, Town of Wickenburg
- ▲ **James A. Pulice, Jr.**, Senior Vice President, Pulice Construction
- ▲ **Diane Scherer**, CEO, Phoenix Association of Realtors; Chair, City of Phoenix Citizen's Transit Commission
- ▲ **Daniel Schweiker**, Vice Mayor, Town of Paradise Valley
- ▲ **Elaine Scruggs**, Mayor, City of Glendale
- ▲ **Martin L. Shultz**, Vice President, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
- ▲ **Supervisor Don Stapley**, Chair, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
- ▲ **J. Woodfin Thomas**, Mayor, City of Litchfield Park
- ▲ **Pending**: Native American Indian Community Representative



Veteran Sports-caster Al McCoy called the play-by-play in introducing the 12 participating videoconference sites.

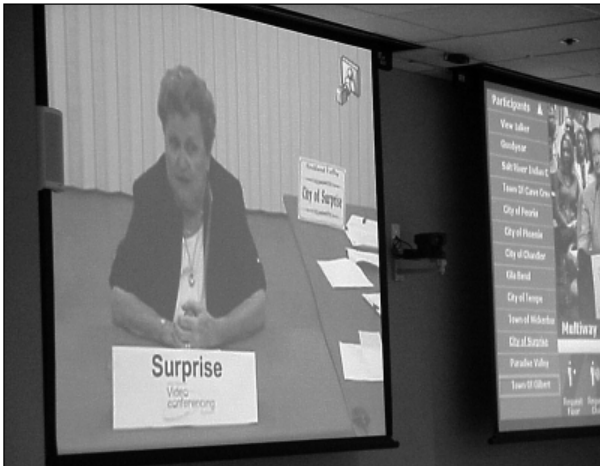
Shazam! Celebrity Sportscaster Helps Launch Regional Videoconferencing System

Calling it a “regional slam dunk to reduce traveling,” Phoenix Suns Sportscaster Al McCoy helped celebrate the launch of the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Videoconferencing System during a press conference May 30, 2002.

“I’m delighted to be here this morning to help MAG officially launch this new Regional Videoconferencing System,” said McCoy, senior vice president of broadcasting for the Phoenix Suns, who is celebrating his 30th season with the organization.



The news conference was attended by several Valley television stations.



Mayor Joan Shafer participated in the press conference from a video-conference room in Surprise.

“You know, you want to avoid traveling in basketball, and you want to avoid it as much as possible when it comes to your car and contributing to congestion and air pollution,” he said.

The new Regional Videoconferencing System is one of the first of its kind to be implemented in the nation. The purpose of the 30-site system is to reduce travel throughout the


region, alleviating traffic congestion and improving air quality. Sites to receive the videoconferencing equipment through MAG include 24 cities and towns, two Indian communities, and Maricopa County. The remaining three videoconference rooms are located at the MAG hub site.

Using basketball analogies and trademark phrases like “Shazam!” and “Zing go the strings!” McCoy called the “play-by-play” during a demonstration of the system involving 12 videoconference sites. Among those participating in the event via videoconference were Gilbert Mayor Steve Berman, Goodyear Mayor Bill Arnold, Surprise Mayor Joan Shafer, Wickenburg Mayor Lon McDermott, and Phoenix Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten. Speakers discussed how they had used the system within their own communities. Uses ranged from attending meetings, interviewing job



applicants, and conducting training.


In promoting videoconferencing as a safe and convenient alternative to business travel, Mayor McDermott told journalists that a single videoconference saves him 107 miles of round-trip driving.

“The Town of Wickenburg is thrilled with the fact that not only will the new MAG Regional Videoconferencing System help us all breathe cleaner air, for us it means we can stay safe here at home in our own offices, save time and money, and get home a little sooner to our families and loved ones,” he said. 



MAG Receives Grant to Support Domestic Violence Efforts

Through the efforts of the Domestic Violence Council and its chair, Peggy Bilsten, MAG has been awarded \$45,000 to assist the Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV) program. This two-year grant will help victims of domestic violence access resources and support in the workplace. The grant was received through St. Luke's Health Initiatives, and will help fund a staff position to assist EADV in recruiting employers and establishing a resource network.

EADV is the first initiative of its kind in Arizona to rally employers to address the safety and health of their employees, while at the same time working with the domestic violence community to provide resources and build capacity to better serve victims. 



Voices from the Council

"In 2003, the City (of Apache Junction) will celebrate its 25th anniversary. We're all very proud of that milestone and are looking forward to the year-long celebration of all that makes Apache Junction a unique and wonderful place to call home. We look forward to working with the other MAG members on issues of interest to the entire region."

— Mayor Douglas Coleman of Apache Junction. The City recently became a full voting member of the MAG Regional Council.



Mayor Douglas Coleman, City of Apache Junction

"The upcoming elections will bring an unprecedented number of changes in our legislative and congressional representation. To help voters meet the candidates and become informed on their positions on issues, I will be hosting a non-partisan candidate forum on Saturday, August 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I would like to encourage all of you who are also represented in the new Legislative Districts 4, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14, and Congressional Districts 2 and 4, to invite your constituents to meet these candidates."

— Mayor Elaine Scruggs of Glendale, encouraging constituent participation in a forum to learn about candidates and issues in districts reshaped by newly established boundaries. The forum will be held inside Agave Hall at Northwestern University, 19555 North 59th Avenue.



Mayor Elaine Scruggs, City of Glendale


"First and foremost, let me thank the voters in this community who had the confidence to allow me to carry forward a very positive plan that we have created here. Many of you know of my passion to ensure that our growth and development occurs through a well-managed and visionary process. I look forward to continuing our successes of the past while striving to increase our position as one of the premier communities in the region."

— Mayor Boyd Dunn of Chandler, in comments made following his June election.



Mayor Boyd Dunn, City of Chandler

"The report showed what many of us knew all along: Arizona, and particularly Maricopa County with Luke Air Force Base, benefits enormously from military installations here. Perhaps more importantly, we stand to lose a great deal should Luke or other bases be closed. The report should be a rallying point for keeping Luke Air Force Base and all of Arizona's military installations open."

— Mayor John Keegan of Peoria, commenting on recent results published in the 'Maguire Study on the Economic Impact of Arizona's Military Bases,' which was spearheaded by the City of Glendale and supported by cities and towns all over Arizona. 



Mayor John Keegan, City of Peoria

Desert Peaks Awards Honor Regional Excellence



Skip Rimsza, Mayor of Phoenix, welcomed guests to the event via videotape.



Keno Hawker, Mayor of Mesa, gave the State of the Region report.



Linda Williams, FOX 10 News, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Individuals and partnerships representing the best in regional cooperation across the Valley were honored June 26 at the Fifth Annual Maricopa Association of Governments Desert Peaks Awards.

Honorees included a consortium that offers standardized training for 13 West Valley fire departments, an East Valley partnership that led to the construction of a recycling materials recovery facility within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Valley Bike Week, and a regional plan review program that saves homebuilders and homeowners time and money. In addition, two individuals were recognized for their singular efforts in advancing the principles of regionalism.

Awards were distributed in five categories: Public Partnership, Public-Private Partnership, Professional Service, Regional Partnership and Regional Excellence. Recipients included:

Public Partnership:

Westside Training Consortium

Public-Private Partnership:

River Recycling Materials Recovery Facility *and* Valley Bike Week

Professional Service:

Gene D'Adamo

Regional Partnership:

Regional Plan Review Program

Regional Excellence:

MaryJo Waits

(For more on each of these

recipients, see the following pages.)

FOX 10 News Anchor Linda Williams served as Master of Ceremonies for the program, which drew nearly 300 people. For the first time, a presentation of colors was given by the elite Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard. A State of the Region address was given by Mayor Keno Hawker, who serves on the MAG Executive Committee. (A recap of the State of the Region can be found on page 10).

The awards are presented to agencies and individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting, recognizing, and attaining the ideals of regionalism. Recipients are selected by an elite panel of judges who represent diverse interests from throughout the Valley. This year's judging panel included:

Barbara Barrett, Chairman of the Board, Valley Bank of Arizona

Representative Dean Cooley, District 21, State of Arizona

Fred Gaskin, Chancellor, Maricopa County Community Colleges

Mary Lynn Kasunic, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging and former Desert Peaks recipient

Elaine Maimon, Provost, Arizona State University West

Dennis Mitchem, Director of Corporate Relations, Northern Arizona University

Judy Mohraz, President/CEO, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Leland Peterson, President/CEO, Sun Health Service

The event was supported through corporate donations. Sponsors included:

- Arizona Public Service Company
- The Arizona Republic
- BlueCross/BlueShield of Arizona
- Cox Communications
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
- Logan Simpson Design, Inc.
- Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre and Friedlander
- Norstan
- Southwest Airlines
- Southwest Gas



The Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard presented the colors.



MAG 2002 Desert Peaks Awards Recipients

Category: Public Partnership Recipient: Westside Training Consortium

The Public Partnership award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through public sector or public/non-profit partnership.

The Westside Training Consortium is a partnership of 13 West Valley fire departments that work together in training firefighters to practice and perform emergency service work – so that they are able to operate more safely and effectively when called for duty. By allowing participating fire departments to train together in real-life situational exercises, the Westside Training Consortium helps provide a more uniform and seamless service to West Valley citizens.

The Westside Training Consortium consists of representatives from the following fire departments: Avondale, Buckeye, Daisy



Thirteen West Valley fire departments train together to serve the region.

Mountain (New River), El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Luke Air Force Base, Rural Metro (West District), Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, and Tolleson. These 13 departments have helped fulfill each other's training needs by sharing training officers, instructors, and evaluators, as well as hosting drills and meetings. Participants have also helped supply and build usable and cost-effective training equipment, which has solved issues of incompatibility in the equipment used among different departments.

Category: Public-Private Partnership Recipients (2): River Recycling Materials Recovery Facility; Valley Bike Week

The Public-Private Partnership award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through a public-private partnership. The judges found both of the following projects worthy of the award.

River Recycling Materials Recovery Facility

In December 2000, the Hudson Baylor West Corporation agreed to design, build and operate a materials recovery facility at a landfill within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. However, before the facility could be built, a commitment was needed from neighboring communities for a minimum of 30-thousand tons per year of single-stream recyclables. The cities of Scottsdale and Mesa

Representatives of the Westside Training Consortium with their award.





Individuals accepting awards for the River Recycling Facility included Mayor Mary Manross of Scottsdale and Mayor Keno Hawker of Mesa.

agreed to transfer, process and market the majority of their curbside recyclable materials through the new facility, a commitment of more than 45,000 tons per year. This commitment not only allowed the construction of the facility to move forward, but also offered a location central to both Scottsdale and Mesa, thus reducing travel time and miles and providing an increase in collection efficiency.

Construction was completed in December on a 37,500 square foot facility that uses the latest recycling technology. The new facility is also home to an education center and classroom that overlooks the sorting and processing operation.



Above: The new River Recycling Materials Recovery Facility.

Valley Bike Week

In the 12 years of its existence, Valley Bike Week has evolved into a weeklong series of events involving almost every city and numerous private partnerships and sponsors. The week includes a Valley Bike Week contest (with prizes given to residents who ride their bike to work); a vanpool vs. bicycle lunch race; several bike safety rodeos; a Bike to Work Day; Mayors' rides (involving the Cities of Tempe, Phoenix, Glendale and Mesa); a bike swap meet; Wal-Mart & Sam's Club store information booths; and the increasingly popular Bike to BOB Family Fun Ride, which attracts more than 1,000 riders.

The Valley Bike Week campaign is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in the region by promoting the bicycle as a cost-effective and healthy alternative to the daily commute by car. The events raise awareness about the benefits of cycling and educate Valley residents on the many ways that bicycles can substitute for vehicles.

Category: Professional Service Recipient: Gene D'Adamo, Director of Community Relations, The Arizona Republic

The Professional Service Award is presented to the individual from any organization who has significantly contributed to regionalism through sustained or outstanding professional efforts.

As Director of Community Relations for The Arizona Republic and a member of the MAG Domestic Violence Council, Gene D'Adamo has demonstrated a passion for social justice and for creating a community where employees can be safe at work.

When the call went out for specific committee leadership on the Council, Mr. D'Adamo stepped forward to accept a leadership role as co-chair of Employers Against Domestic Violence (EADV), a result of initiatives developed through the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Plan. EADV has become a lead resource for employers and



Right: More than 1,000 riders participated in the Valley Bike Week "Bike to Bob" ride.



Gene D'Adamo earned the award for Professional Service.

their employees, with a membership of more than 60 public and private businesses. Programs sponsored by EADV include forums to educate members on how best to serve victims in the workplace, and a workplace manual that addresses everything from recognizing abuse to handling violent episodes. As head of the EADV fundraising subcommittee, D'Adamo has helped create new funding streams to assist domestic violence shelters and other organizations that help battered women and their children.



Individuals involved with the Regional Plan Review Program received the Regional Partnership Award.

Category: Regional Partnership **Recipient: Regional Plan Review Program**

This award honors local governments that have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts.

The Regional Plan Review Program is a streamlined system for approving residential building plans that eliminates the need for each participating jurisdiction to complete a separate plan review. This joint approach reduces travel, costs and processing times for municipalities, builders, and home buyers.

The Regional Plan Review Program allows a builder of tract homes to submit standard plans and documents for approval to any one of the eight participating municipalities: Avondale, Cave Creek, El Mirage, Gilbert, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, and Peoria. The development of the Regional Plan Review Program was prompted by the fact that other than soil-bearing conditions, water pressure and plan-

ning/zoning issues, there is little difference between a standard home built in one local jurisdiction and another in this region. By utilizing uniform procedures, codes, amendments and interpretations of their building codes, the program results in

improved customer service across the region. It also meets a key objective of the MAG Building Codes Committee to encourage uniformity in the development and enforcement of building codes.

Category: Regional Excellence **Recipient: Mary Jo Waits,** **Associate Director, Morrison** **Institute for Public Policy**

The Regional Excellence award is presented to the single individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the spirit of regionalism.

For more than 20 years, Mary Jo Waits has successfully built consensus among Valley cities on regional issues, such as the effective resolution regarding governance of the light rail system. At the Morrison Institute, Waits oversees project development, publications, research and analysis. Her areas of expertise include economic development, urban growth, environment and crime prevention.

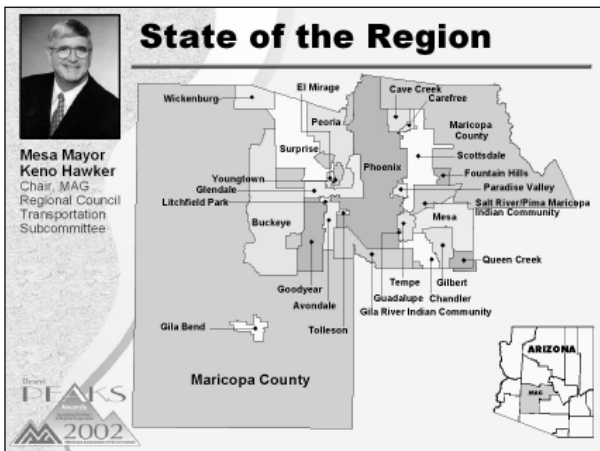


Regional Excellence Award recipient Mary Jo Waits.

She works regionally to pull together elected and appointed leaders to accomplish significant goals. For example, the Morrison Institute's report, *Five Shoes Waiting to Drop*, resulted in discussion at all levels of government on how to strengthen Arizona's social and economic future. As the author of *The New Economy: A Guide for Arizona*, she spurred action throughout the state to position Arizona for a strong economic future. Waits also manages the Phoenix Violence Prevention Initiative, a partnership to create a comprehensive strategy to address violence in schools, families and neighborhoods. ▲

State of Region Outlines Accomplishments, Challenges

From accommodating explosive population growth to securing adequate funding, the Maricopa region faces continued challenges when it comes to maintaining a transportation system that meets the Valley's mobility needs.



Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker delivered the annual State of the Region address to a crowd of about 300 people during the Fifth Annual Desert Peaks Awards ceremony June 26.

Hawker, who serves on the MAG Executive Committee and the newly-formed Transportation Policy Committee, began by outlining many of MAG's recent accomplishments – such as the initiation of a new regional transportation plan.

The plan will serve as the transportation blueprint over the next 20 to 40 years, and will address the impacts of sustained growth on our transportation system. Other accomplishments mentioned by

the mayor included the major strides the region has made in addressing air pollution, MAG's work in the domestic violence arena, and the benefits of a new regional videoconferencing system.

"These are just a few of the ways MAG is working to improve our region," said Hawker. "But our work is far from finished, and many challenges lie ahead," he said.

Among the challenges Mayor Hawker highlighted in the address:


- We are a region that continues to face strong population growth. From the urban core to developing fringes, rapid growth will continue to pose challenges to our ability to provide adequate infrastructure.
- We will continue to see major shifts in demographics. Historically, many foreign-born residents have chosen to settle in the central city, which could mean an increased need for additional transit services and light rail.
- The number of seniors in Maricopa County is expected to rise substantially. People aged 55 or older represent nearly one-third of new residents in the urban fringe areas. These aging "baby boomers" will face increasing challenges when it comes to transportation.

- Issues surrounding mass transit will continue to take up much of the spotlight. Along with construction of light rail will be a look at the development of alternatives such as bus rapid transit.

But Hawker told the audience the "biggest hill yet to climb" will be gaining approval of the extension of the half-cent sales tax – currently set to expire in 2005.

"This tax has served as the major funding source for highway facilities in this region for two decades," said Hawker. "Without an extension, we won't be able to keep pace with growth, and we could expect almost certain gridlock," he said.

Still, Hawker cautioned that proponents will need to be patient and wait for a series of major studies to be completed by MAG. The studies are expected to help identify needs and priorities for the next 20 to 40 years.

"Then, we will need to roll up our sleeves and work in cooperation to put together a plan – a plan that voters will support because it's good for the entire region," he said. "Cities will work with the business community to go as a united force to the legislature, to get the legislation needed to put the issue before the citizens in 2004," he said. 

For a complete transcript of the State of the Region address, visit the MAG Web site at www.mag.maricopa.gov.

Cities Rush to Aid El Mirage After Destructive Fire

When fire ravaged the El Mirage City Hall in early July, the response from neighboring communities was both immediate and inspiring.

Within hours, numerous neighboring communities had stepped in to offer assistance, as did the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

For example, Goodyear donated scores of court record boxes and a van to store city records. Glendale authorities donated a mobile command post used as a

that Water Department customer-service staff could set up right in front of City Hall. MAG sent six personal computers, networking equipment, and an information technology specialist to assist in setting up the computers. The cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Surprise also offered support.

“We’re there to help them and support them in any way we can,” Surprise City Manager Bill Pupo told a Valley newspaper just hours after the fire.


City of El Mirage Mayor Jose “Roy” Delgado was just as quick to offer his gratitude for the rapid response.

“It was wonderful to receive the overwhelming support of communities around the Valley,” said Mayor Delgado. “It gives you a warm feeling inside to get phone calls from your friends in government, offering both their sympathies in light of the tragedy and their unbridled assistance in our recovery. It has eased the impact of the fire on our citizens and staff and has helped to keep moving our city forward,” he said.

Peoria Mayor John Keegan said helping a neighbor persevere through a difficult time is a “historic American value.”

“Peoria was very happy to lend a hand, and I’m pleased to see the regional spirit of the West Valley – and indeed of Maricopa County as a whole – evident in the different ways that El Mirage is being supported,” he said.



While most city operations are back on track, El Mirage is still working to relocate offices, staff, files and equipment. At the MAG Management Committee meeting in July, City Manager Stuart Brackney distributed a list of outstanding needs in case other communities could offer additional assistance. The list focused on the need for technical crews and staff to help with the recovery efforts. 

Workers dressed to protect against possible asbestos remove court documents after the fire.

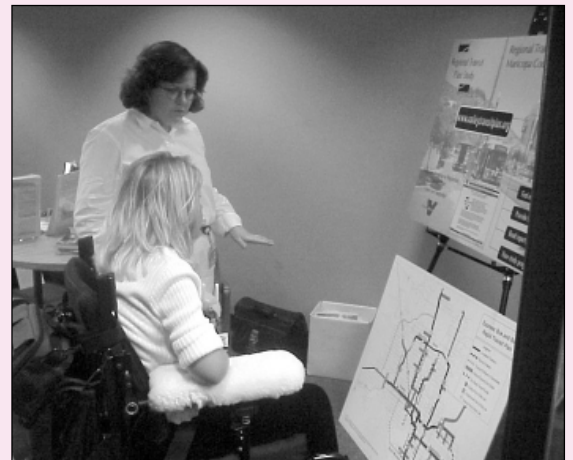


Mayor Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage



headquarters for the cleanup, and provided public works personnel to help with street repair. Mesa provided a staff person qualified in the use of Auto Cad Lite, equipment to assist in producing design documents. Peoria provided courtroom space for the municipal court. Queen Creek offered to donate a modular building. Youngtown offered office space, including a two-office trailer so

MAG Moment



Bike safety, light rail routes, expanded bus service, and bus rapid transit were just a few of the issues touched on by citizens attending events held as part of MAG’s Final Phase Input Opportunity Open House and Public Hearing.

EVENTS *Calendar*

MEETING *Times*

SUMMER 2002

August	September	October
1st 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee 7th 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee 13th 1:30 PM, Street Committee 15th 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee 15th 1:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee 20th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee 20th 1:30 PM, Bicycle Task Force 21st 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee 22nd 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group 27th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee 27th 10:00 AM, Elderly Mobility Stakeholders Group 29th 8:00 AM, Employers Against Domestic Violence Public Forum 29th 1:30 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee <p>Note: There will be no Management Committee or Regional Council meetings in August.</p>	2nd Labor Day - Offices Closed 4th 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee 4th 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee 5th 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee 10th 1:30 PM, Street Committee 11th 12:00 PM, Management Committee 12th 2:00 PM, Domestic Violence Council 17th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee 17th 1:30 PM, Bicycle Task Force, Pedestrian Working Group Joint Meeting 18th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee 19th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee 19th 1:00 PM, Human Services Technical Advisory Committee 25th 5:00 PM, Regional Council 26th 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group 26th 1:30 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee	2nd 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee 2nd 1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee 3rd 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee 8th 1:30 PM, Street Committee 10th 10:00 AM, Human Services Technical Advisory Committee 15th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee 15th 1:30 PM, Bicycle Task Force 16th 12:00 PM, Management Committee 16th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee 17th 1:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee 24th 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group 24th 1:30 PM, Homeless Continuum of Care Steering Committee 29th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee 30th 5:00 PM, Regional Council
<p>All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Compass Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue.</p>	<p>Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. Bus fares may be reimbursed with a valid transfer. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.</p>	<p>The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. Please call (602) 254-6300 for confirmation.</p>



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